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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 6	2
II.	PRESENTATION OF THE FUND	7 - 11	3
III.	CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES	12 - 19	4
IV.	FUNDS AVAILABLE	20 - 22	10
V.	DISBURSEMENTS	23 - 30	11
VI.	TYPES OF TORTURE AND AFTER-EFFECTS	31 - 33	13
VII.	FUND-RAISING	34 - 36	17
VIII.	CONCLUSIONS	37	17

Annexes

I.	Humanitarian organizations receiving assistance from the Fund	18
II.	Statement by Mr. Ivan Tosevski, member of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session	23
III.	How to make or pledge a contribution to the Fund	25

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. A number of international human rights instruments contain provisions aimed at the prohibition and elimination of torture. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in its article 4, provides that torture cannot be tolerated under any circumstances, even in time of public emergency or armed conflict; no derogation from that right can be made. As at 16 June 1997 the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was in force in 102 States. The domestic laws of most States contain numerous provisions prohibiting and punishing any form of torture.

2. Nevertheless, torture continues to be practised in many countries, to such an extent that the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1997/38 of 11 April 1997, declared that it was appalled at the widespread occurrence of torture. According to information available to the United Nations, torture, which is one of the most serious violations of the physical integrity of the human person, leads to physical and mental after-effects which can last for decades, or may even be irreversible for the direct victims (see section VI). It can also traumatize their relatives.

3. In order to assist the victims of torture and their families, the United Nations General Assembly, by resolution 36/151 of 17 December 1981, created the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. In accordance with the arrangements adopted in 1981 under this resolution (see A/36/540, annex), the Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly annually on the administration of the Fund, indicating the pledges and contributions received, the funds available as well as disbursements from the Fund. This report has been prepared in accordance with the above-mentioned arrangements (see sections III, IV and V below).

4. In conformity with the above-mentioned resolution, a Board of Trustees was established in 1982 to advise the Secretary-General on the financial status of the fund and to submit recommendations regarding requests for financial assistance for projects and programmes (see paras. 5-11 below).

5. By resolution 51/86 of 12 December 1996, the General Assembly expressed its gratitude to the Governments, organizations and individuals that had contributed to the Fund (see A/51/465). It appealed to Governments, organizations and individuals to contribute on a regular basis and annually before the meeting of the Board of Trustees. The next meeting is scheduled for 11 to 22 May 1998 in Geneva. The Assembly appealed to Governments in a position to do so to increase substantially their level of contributions, so that consideration could be given to the ever-increasing demand for assistance in the world. The Fund had received requests for over $5 million of assistance to victims of torture in 1996, and almost $7 million in 1997, an additional $2 million.[1]

6. Support from the Fund is vital to the organizations concerned because sources of financing for assistance to torture victims are scarce.[1] Victim assistance programmes have even been interrupted due to lack of funding. Thus, unfortunately the Comité de Defensa de los Derechos del Pueblo (ODEPU) of Chile had to terminate its programme in 1997, after 14 years of operation. The

Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 1997/38 of 11 April 1997, supported the recommendations of the General Assembly, took note of the supplementary information communicated to it by the Secretary-General[2] and stressed the need for contributions to be paid before the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees in order to prevent lack of sufficient resources from interrupting programmes in the continuation of which the Fund plays an instrumental role.

II. PRESENTATION OF THE FUND

A. Mandate

7. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 36/151, the Fund receives voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals which it distributes through established channels of assistance, as humanitarian, legal and financial aid to torture victims and their relatives. In accordance with the practice established by its Board of Trustees beginning in 1982, the Fund provides grants to organizations which submit projects involving medical, psychological, psychiatric, social, economic or legal assistance to the victims of torture and their relatives. It also funds, if sufficient money is available, projects under which health-care professionals receive training, through seminars or specialized conferences, in the treatment of victims of torture.

B. Administration

8. The Fund is administered, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, by the Secretary-General, assisted by a Board of Trustees composed of a Chairman and four other members who possess wide experience in the field of human rights, serve in a personal capacity and are appointed by the Secretary-General for a renewable three-year term of office on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and in consultation with their Governments.

9. The Board of Trustees is composed of Mr. Jaap Walkate (Netherlands), Chairman, Mrs. Elisabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica), Mr. Ivan Tosevski (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Mr. Ribot Hatano (Japan) and Mr. Amos Wako (Kenya). It holds an annual two-week session, in the spring, at the United Nations Office at Geneva to consider the large number of projects received. It makes recommendations for funding to the Secretary-General on projects which it considers relevant and in keeping with the Fund's mandate. Once the grants are approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the beneficiary organizations are notified, during the summer, of the grants awarded and of any conditions attached to them. These organizations are required to submit narrative and financial reports by the end of December on the use of the funds granted. The reports are analysed by the Fund secretariat, then submitted for consideration to the Board of Trustees (for more information, see para. 11 below and the report of the Secretary-General (A/50/512), chap. IV).

10. At its annual session, the Board considers ways to obtain new financing, holds a meeting with donor States, receives and grants hearings to those non-governmental organizations involved which so request. The Chairman also holds a press conference at the conclusion of the session. In accordance with the guidelines approved by the Board and the Secretary-General and communicated to the General Assembly (see A/48/520, annex I, appendix V, para. 21), in April 1997 the Chairman of the Board visited projects financed by the Fund in Argentina and Uruguay. At that time, he held discussions with members of those Governments about the possibility of contributing to the Fund.

11. Throughout the year, the Fund secretariat receives information, narratives, financial reports and audits from the beneficiary organizations. It analyses them, asks for more information if necessary and prepares summaries and comments for the Board on the beneficiary organizations' administrative and financial management of the projects. Upon request, it assists organizations with the development of new projects to be submitted for financing. It collects information on the follow-up of projects already financed and ensures that grants are used in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Trustees, as approved by the Secretary-General. The Fund secretariat also follows up, with the competent departments, financial matters related to the management of the Fund. It organizes the annual session of the Board of Trustees and stays in contact with its Chairman between sessions.

III. CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES

12. Every year, the Fund receives voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and private individuals. In order to meet requests for financing during the current year, contributions must be paid into the Fund before May, in order to be available and duly recorded when the annual session of the Board of Trustees is held. Any contribution made later is carried over to the following year. The list of contributions and pledges by Governments from February 1982 to September 1996 can be found in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/51/465, annex I).

A. Payment of contributions

1. Trends in government contributions

13. The number of States contributing to the Fund rose from 5 in 1982 to 32 in 1997.

Table 1. Trend in the number of States contributing to the Fund

Year	Number of donor States
1982	5
1983	8
1984	18
1985	13
1986	21
1987	19
1988	24
1989	20
1990	14
1991	20
1992	16
1993	27
1994	30
1995	25
1996	26
1997	32

14. Subsequent to the Secretary-General's previous report (A/51/465), the following Governments made voluntary contributions to the Fund between 17 September 1996 and 15 August 1997.

15. The following should be noted with respect to table 2: Nepal and the Philippines contributed to the Fund for the first time. Australia increased its contribution fourteenfold compared to previous years (see A/51/465, annex I). Algeria contributed three times as much as it had in 1996 and Chile contributed nearly three times as much as it had in 1996. The Republic of Korea doubled its 1996 contribution. Ireland, which had been increasing its contribution steadily since 1989, increased it by a third over the 1996 figure. Finland, which had stopped contributing regularly in 1995, resumed its support in 1997, at a higher level. Norway, which had been reducing its contributions since 1993, was one of the largest contributors this year, nearly doubling its 1996 contribution. Andorra, Luxembourg and Switzerland also increased their contributions. For the third consecutive year, the United States of America contributed $1.5 million, thus becoming the main contributor to the Fund ahead of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway and Sweden. Since 1982, the Fund's main contributors have been the United States of America (more than $10 million), Denmark (nearly $2.5 million), Sweden (more than $2 million), Finland (nearly $2 million), Germany (nearly $2 million), Norway and the Netherlands ($1 million). Symbolic but not inconsiderable contributions (for example, a contribution of US$ 5,000 can help provide a grant to certain organizations) continue to come from Governments of developing countries, in response to recommendations by the Committee against Torture.

Table 2. Government contributions from 17 September 1996 to 15 August 1997

Government	Contribution (United States dollars)	Year	Contribution number
Algeria	10 000.00	1997	4
	5 000.00	1997	5
Andorra	3 000.00	1997	3
Argentina	3 000.00	1997	7
Australia	50 000.00	1997	5
Austria	20 000.00	1996	13
	20 000.00	1997	14
Belgium	48 074.00	1996	7
Brazil	5 000.00	1997	5
Canada	18 401.00	1997	14
Chile	4 000.00	1996	4
	10 000.00	1997	5
Cyprus	1 000.00	1997	8
	990.00	1997	9
Denmark	305 405.00	1997	15
Finland	214 278.00	1997	14
Germany	89 090.00	1997	15
	11 561.00	1997	16
Greece	10 300.00	1997	14
Holy See	1 000.00	1997	2
Iceland	5 674.00	1997	11
Ireland	70 353.00	1997	13
Japan	100 000.00	1996	11
Kenya	1 000.00	1996	4
Liechtenstein	8 000.00	1997	9
Luxembourg	11 197.00	1997	14
Malta	1 500.00	1996	3
Nepal	1 000.00	1997	1
Norway	79 213.00	1996	11
	138 246.00	1997	12

Government	Contribution (United States dollars)	Year	Contribution number
Philippines	10 000.00	1996	1
	10 000.00	1997	2
Republic of Korea	19 988.00	1997	4
South Africa	22 766.00	1997	1
Sri Lanka	1 000.00	1996	6
	1 000.00	1997	7
Sweden	388 601.00	1997	11
Switzerland	29 630.00	1996	9
United States of America	1 500 000.00	1997	13

2. Contributions from private individuals

16. Regular contributors to the Fund such as Mr. Olivier Girardot (France) and Ms. Rita Maran (United States of America) maintained their support for the Fund in 1997, donating $198 and $25 respectively.

3. Contributions received in time for allocation at the sixteenth session of the Board

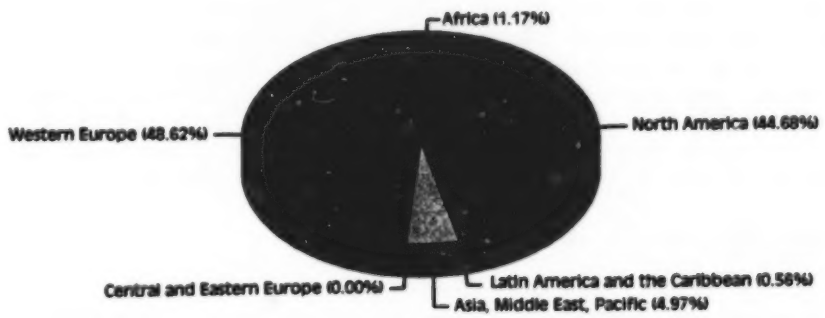
17. In accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Commission on Human Rights (see para. 12), donors are requested to make their contributions before the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees because the Board can only take into consideration contributions that have actually been paid and duly recorded when it adopts its recommendations on contributions. Table 3 lists the contributions received in time for allocation at the sixteenth session of the Board, that is to say, between 1 June 1996 and 19 May 1997.

Table 3. Contributions received in time for allocation at the sixteenth session of the Board

State	Amount	1996	1997	Contribution No.
Algeria	$10 000		X	4
	$5 000		X	5
Andorra	$3 000		X	3
Austria	$20 000	X		13
Belgium	$48 074	X		7
Brazil	$5 000		X	5
Canada	$18 401		X	14
Chile 1	$4 000	X		4
2	$10 000		X	5
Cyprus 1	$1 000		X	8
2	$990		X	9
Denmark	$340 049	X		14
	$305 405		X	15
Finland	$214 278		X	14
Germany	$89 090		X	15
Holy See	$1 000		X	2
Iceland	$5 674		X	11
Ireland 1	$47 100	X		12
2	$70 353		X	13
Japan	$100 000	X		11
Kenya 1	$1 000	X		3
2	$1 000	X		4
Liechtenstein	$8 000		X	9
Malta	$1 500	X		3
Nepal	$1 000		X	1
Netherlands	$287 976	X		14
New Zealand	$16 948	X		11
Norway	$79 213	X		11
Philippines	$10 000	X		1
	$10 000		X	2
Republic of Korea	$19 988		X	4

State	Amount	1996	1997	Contribution No.
Saudi Arabia	$10 000	X		1
South Africa	$22 766		X	1
Spain	$53 954	X		11
Sri Lanka	$1 000	X		6
Switzerland	$29 630		X	9
United Kingdom	$46 154	X		7
United States	$1 500 000		X	13
O. Girardot	$198	X		
R. Maran	$25	X		
TOTAL	$3 398 768			

Graph 1. Contributions received for the 16th session


Africa (1.17%)
Western Europe (48.62%)
North America (44.68%)
Central and Eastern Europe (0.00%)
Latin America and the Caribbean (0.56%)
Asia, Middle East, Pacific (4.97%)

B. Pledges

18. Government pledges to the Fund are made either directly to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, or at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, held in New York, or at the annual session of the Commission on Human Rights, held in Geneva.

19. The following pledges were outstanding as at 15 August 1997:

Country	United States dollars	Year
Brazil	10 000	1995
	10 000	1996
Monaco	11 741	1996
Netherlands	384 615	1997
South Africa	8 888	1996

IV. FUNDS AVAILABLE

Sixteenth session

20. The Board of Trustees held its sixteenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 20 to 30 May 1997. A press release concerning this session was issued in Geneva on 11 June 1997.[3]

Amount of funds available for the sixteenth session

21. In accordance with the rules governing the Voluntary Fund, 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures must be earmarked as a reserve for the following year, and 13 per cent is the rate set for programme support costs. After that reserve and support costs were deducted from the total contributions received in time for allocation at the sixteenth session of the Board (see para. 17, table 3 and graph 1), the total amount available on 20 May 1997, the first day of the sixteenth session of the Board of Trustees, came to $3,036,054.

Amount available for the seventeenth session

22. A total amount of $633,905 was received after 20 May 1997. This amount will be allocated at the seventeenth session in May 1998. The contributions were made by the following regular donors: Argentina ($3,000), Australia ($50,000), Austria ($20,000), Germany ($11,561), Greece ($10,300), Luxembourg ($11,197), Norway ($138,246), Sri Lanka ($1,000) and Sweden ($388,601). It should be recalled that an amount of $6.8 million was requested from the Fund in 1997. Should requests for financing remain at this level in 1998, voluntary contributions in the amount of $6.2 million would have to be paid before May 1998 in order to fully meet such requests.

V. DISBURSEMENTS

Request for assistance

23. Requests for assistance for victims of torture are constantly increasing. In 1996, more than $5 million was requested from the Fund for 96 projects and subprojects in 54 countries. In 1997, $6.8 million was requested for 117 projects in 64 countries.

Recommendations of the Board of Trustees at its sixteenth session

24. The Board of Trustees made project grant recommendations earmarking all available funds, i.e. $3,036,054 (see paras. 17 and 21), of which $100,000 was for urgent grants falling between annual sessions of the Board of Trustees.

Methods of work

25. For a detailed description of the guidelines for the consideration of requests for project financing and of assisted programmes (selection criteria, submission of a grant request, role of the Fund secretariat and of the Board of Trustees, types of requests received, urgent grants etc.), the reader is referred to the reports of the Secretary-General (A/50/512, chap. IV, and A/48/520, annex I, the Secretary-General's Consolidated report on 10 years (1982-1992) of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Torture).

26. Every year, since its first session, the Board of Trustees has adopted and, where necessary, revised its guidelines on the processing of the funding proposals received and the assisted projects. (These guidelines are contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/520, annex I, chapter III and appendices II, IV and V, and annex V)). The Board transmits its recommendations to the Secretary-General, for approval, and he reports thereon to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights.

Decisions of the Fund secretariat

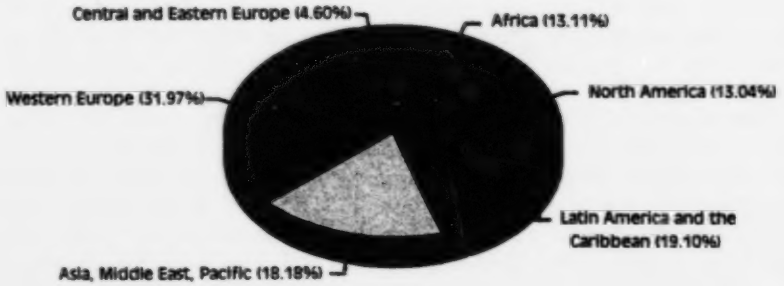
27. On 9 June 1997, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General, approved the Board's recommendations on grants to 104 projects presented by 94 humanitarian organizations in 54 countries (see table 4). Annex I lists the organizations that authorized the Fund secretariat to mention the awarding of a grant in 1997. During the session, the Board of Trustees heard, in closed meetings, six representatives of organizations carrying out 18 different projects. Despite the late payment of pledged amounts and the small number of contributed States (32 out of a possible 185), the Board made an effort to honour every request for funding which met the selection criteria by awarding approximately 30 per cent of the budget requested, or sometimes more, according to the cost of the treatments offered and the number of victims assisted. Priority was given to the organizations which had most fully met the Board's requirements in terms of the submission of narrative and financial reports on the use of previous grants.

Table 4. Geographical distribution of grants recommended in 1997

Region[a]	Number of countries	Number of projects	Number of organizations	Grants (in United States dollars)
Africa	14	14	14	384 947.00
North America	2	14	14	383 000.00
Latin America and the Caribbean	11	21	18	561 000.00
Asia, Pacific and Middle East	10	15	15	534 000.00
Western Europe	11	30	25	938 907.00
Central and Eastern Europe	8	10	8	135 000.00
Total	56	104	94	2 936 854.00

[a] This regional distribution is based on the division of Member States of the General Assembly into regional groups and is employed to facilitate the work of the Fund secretariat and the Board of Trustees, as well as to reflect the fact that many projects provide assistance to victims of torture in different countries of the same region.

Graph 2. Grants awarded in 1997


Central and Eastern Europe (4.60%)
Africa (13.11%)
Western Europe (31.97%)
North America (13.04%)
Latin America and the Caribbean (19.10%)
Asia, Middle East, Pacific (18.18%)

28. It should be noted that the grants awarded to organizations in North America and Western Europe are used for the treatment of victims of torture from a great many countries in other regions of the world, mainly applicants for asylum and refugee torture victims. It has been known for many years that at least 50 per cent of such applicants and refugees seeking asylum who have been subjected to any form of detention have been tortured in their country of origin. In 1996, two European Governments accorded high distinction to women known throughout the world for their work on behalf of torture victims. Dr. Hélène Jaffé, Director of the Association pour les victimes de la répression en exil (AVRE) in Paris received the title of Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur from the Government of France. Ms. Helen Bamber, Director of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture (London) was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by the Government of the United Kingdom. The two organizations were among the first to be financed by the Fund, in 1985.

29. From the establishment of the Fund until 30 May 1997, 279 files were started by the Fund secretariat. One organization may submit several projects, which may give rise to a number of subprojects.

30. At the end of its sixteenth session, the Board of Trustees held a press conference and an information briefing with interested donor States to announce how the funds would be disbursed.

VI. TYPES OF TORTURE AND AFTER-EFFECTS

31. Information possessed by the Fund confirms that received by other sectors of the Secretariat indicating that torture gives rise to long-term and occasionally irreversible physical and psychological after-effects.

32. Based on this information and the classification carried out by certain organizations, the types of torture practised include the following:

Physical assaults

Slaps, blows

Blows with rifle-butts, whips, iron bars, wet cloth, etc.

Specific striking techniques:

"Telefono" (clapping the ears)

"Phalanga" (blows to the soles of the feet)

"Operating table" (the victim is forced to lie on a table with the upper body unsupported while being struck on the abdomen)

Tearing out fingernails

Pulling out hair

Throwing or forcing the victim to jump into a void

Electric shocks

Burns

Boiling water

Cigarettes

Chemical agents

Red hot objects

Sexual abuse

Rape by a member of the same or opposite sex

Introduction of inanimate objects into the vagina or rectum

Introduction of live animals (spiders, mice, etc.) into the vagina or rectum

Electric shocks to the genitals

Blows to the genitals

Asphyxia

Strangulation

Enclosing the head in a plastic bag

Forcing the head under water

Immersion in water mixed with urine or excrement

Forced positions

Victim suspended by the legs, hands, arms or thumbs

Victim suspended with arms and legs joined by a bar

"The Orderly" (victim forced to remain standing for hours in extreme weather conditions)

Stretching of limbs and trunk

Victim forced to remain seated or kneeling

Chained wrists and/or ankles

Deprivation

Of food and water

Of sleep

Of medical attention

Of sound and contact (solitary confinement)

Sensory stress

Noises or music at very high volume

Shouts and voices

Bright light

Extreme heat or cold

Psychological torture

False accusations

Death or other threats against the victim, the victim's family or friends

Simulated execution

Victim forced to execute other prisoners

Degrading treatment

Deprivation of opportunity to practice personal hygiene

Abuse using excrement

Victim forced to perform degrading actions (licking like a dog, etc.)

Verbal abuse

Witnessing acts of torture

Victim forced to watch or listen to the torture of other persons, family members, friends or other prisoners

Pharmacological manipulation

Use of oral, intramuscular or intravenous drugs

33. The after-effects resulting from torture include the following symptoms:

Somatic disorders

Post-traumatic stress disorders

Anxiety, depression

Psychosomatic disorders

Personality disorders

Acute psychotic crises

Chronic developmental disorders

Social maladjustment problems: drug addiction, criminal behaviour

Marital dysfunction

Family dysfunction

Sexual disorders

Suicide attempts

Behavioural disorders

Physical symptoms:

Scars or other marks on the skin

Fractures

Deformities

Loss of teeth

Loss of sight

Perforated eardrums

Pain

Miscarriage

VII. FUND-RAISING

A. Resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights

34. In its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, by which it established the Fund, the General Assembly authorized the Board of Trustees to promote and solicit contributions and pledges. It also requested the Secretary-General to give the Board of Trustees all the assistance it might require and appealed to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund.

35. In keeping with the programme of work it outlined in decision 48/431 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly adopts resolutions concerning the Fund only in even years. Resolution 51/86 of 12 December 1996 is the latest one it has adopted on the matter. The Assembly, in this resolution, and the Commission on Human Rights, in resolution 1997/38 of 11 April 1997, appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, if possible on a regular basis and annually before the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fund. The General Assembly should adopt a resolution concerning the Fund in 1998.

B. Letters to States

36. The Board of Trustees greatly appreciated the initiative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in sending, on 11 November 1996, a letter to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of States that had never contributed to the Fund, inviting them to do so for the first time, and another letter to States that were regular contributors, encouraging them to increase their support.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

37. The Fund's support is vital for the organizations concerned, because sources of funding for assistance to victims of torture are limited, and because programmes of assistance to victims are sometimes halted owing to insufficient financing. Ever-increasing financial support is needed. Donors wishing to contribute to the Fund are requested to refer to annex III for information regarding modalities of payment.

Notes

[1] See also the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1997/27), sect. IV, paras. 13-16, "Needs Assessment", and para. 23 below, "Requests for assistance").

[2] E/CN.4/1997/27 and Add.1.

[3] HR/97/37.

Annex I

HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND

A. Organizations which received support in 1997 and which have authorized the Fund secretariat to mention their identity and the type of assistance they provide:

Organization	Type of assistance provided
Abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo (APM) (Argentina)	Psychological, social, legal
ACAT (Association des Chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture) (Mexico)	Medical, psychological, legal
Amani Trust (Zimbabwe)	Medical, psychological, training of health-care professionals
Amigos de los Sobrevivientes (Oregon, United States)	Medical, psychological, social
ATYHA (Centro de Alternativas en Salud Mental) (Paraguay)	Medical, psychological, social
AVRE (Association pour les victimes de la répression en exil) (Paris)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals
BALAY Incorporated (Quezon City, Philippines)	Medical, psychological, social
Behandlungszentrum für Folteropfer (Berlin)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals
CAPSDH-Ghana (Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme) (Accra)	Medical, psychological, social
CAPSDH-Guinea (Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme) (Guinea)	Medical, psychological, social
CCVT (Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture) (Toronto)	Medical, psychological

Organization	Type of assistance provided
CDHES (Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador) (El Salvador)	Medical, psychological, social, legal
CEDAVIDA (Fundación Social Colombiana) (Bogotá)	Medical, psychological, social
CEFPRODHAC (Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y de Promoción de los Derechos Humanos) (Tamaulipas, Mexico)	Medical, psychological, legal
CIIS (California Institute of Integral Studies) (United States)	Medical, psychological
CINTRAS (Centro de Salud Mental y Derechos Humanos) (Santiago)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals
CNDDHH (Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos) (Peru)	Psychological
CODESEDH (Comité para la Defensa de la Salud, la Ética Profesional y los Derechos Humanos) (Buenos Aires)	Medical, psychological, social, seminars
COMEDE (Comité médical pour les exilés) (Paris)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals
CVICT (Centre for Victims of Torture) (Kathmandu)	Medical, psychological, social
CVT (Centre for Victims of Torture) (Minnesota, United States)	Medical, psychological, social
EATIP (Equipo Argentino de Trabajo e Investigación Psicosocial) (Buenos Aires)	Medical, psychological, social
ECSTT (Edmonton Centre for Survivors of Torture and Trauma) (Edmonton, Canada)	Medical, psychological, social
EXIL (Centre médico-psychosocial pour réfugiés) (Brussels)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals

Organization	Type of assistance provided
FASIC (Fundación de Ayuda Social de las Iglesias Cristianas) (Santiago)	Medical, psychological, social, legal, seminars
FIND (Family of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance) (Philippines)	Psychological
FRC (Family Rehabilitation Centre) (Colombo)	Medical, psychological, social, legal
Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry and Ukrainian Psychiatric Association (Amsterdam, Netherlands)	Medical, psychological, social
HHR (Home for Human Rights) (Colombo)	Medical, psychological
HRFT (Human Rights Foundation of Turkey) (Ankara/Istanbul/Izmir, Turkey)	Medical, psychological
ICAR Foundation (Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture) (Bucharest Craiova/Iasi, Romania)	Medical, psychological, social
Iglesia Metodista (Centro de Salud Mental) (Punta Arenas, Chile)	Medical, psychological
JKC (Refugee Advice Centre) (Pakistan)	Medical, psychological, social
Justice pour Tazmamart (France)	Social
Kanyarwanda (Rwanda)	Medical, psychological
LAPPH (Ligue des anciens prisonniers politiques haïtiens, des amis et parents des disparus) (Port-au-Prince)	Medical, social, legal
Mandela Institute (Israel)	Medical, psychological, legal
Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture (London)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals
Methodist Church of Southern Africa (Durban, South Africa)	Medical, psychological, social, legal
OCISO (Ottawa-Carlton Immigrant Services Organization) (Canada)	Psychological

Organization	Type of assistance provided
OMEGA (Graz, Austria)	Medical, psychological, social, legal
PCATI (Israel)	Legal
POC (Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund) (London)	Social
Primo Levi (Paris)	Medical, psychological, social
Psychosocial Centre for Refugees (Cologne, Germany)	Medical, psychological, social
PTV (Programme for Torture Victims) (California, United States)	Medical, psychological social
RCT (Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims) (Copenhagen)	Medical, psychological, seminars, training of health-care professionals
RCTV (Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims) (Ioannina, Greece)	Medical, psychological
Red de Apoyo por la Justicia y de la Paz (Caracas)	Medical, psychological, social
Redress (London)	Legal
Refugee Mental Health Access Project (Colorado, United States)	
Refugio (Bremen, Germany)	Medical, psychological, social
Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture (Bosnia)	Medical, psychological, social
Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture (Croatia)	Medical, psychological, social
Restart Centre (Tripoli, Lebanon)	Medical, psychological, social
RIVO (Réseau d'intervention auprès des personnes ayant subi la violence organisée) (Montreal, Canada)	Medical, psychological, social
RTCR (Rehabilitation Centre for Torture and Repression Survivors) (Vilnius)	Medical, psychological, social
SMRC (Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture) (Riga)	Medical, psychological, social

Organization	Type of assistance provided
Survivors International of Northern California (United States)	Medical, psychological, training of health-care professionals
SVTG Sudanese Victims of Torture Group (London)	Medical, psychological
Swedish Red Cross (Malmö/Skovde/ Stockholm/Uppsala, Sweden)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals
Swiss Red Cross (Berne, Switzerland)	Medical, psychological, social
TOHAV (Turkey)	Medical, psychological, social, legal
TNM (Tortura Nunca Más) (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)	Medical, psychological, social
TRUSTT (Brisbane, Australia)	Medical, psychological, social
VAST (Vancouver Association for the Survivors of Torture) (Vancouver, Canada)	Medical, psychological, social, legal
VAT (Voice Against Torture) (Islamabad)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals
World Organization against Torture (OMCT/SOS-Torture) (Geneva)	Emergency aid for torture victims
XENION (Berlin)	Medical, psychological, social
ZEBRA (Zentrum zur sozialmedizinischen, rechtlichen und kulturellen Betreuung von Ausländern und Ausländerinnen) (Graz, Austria)	Medical, psychological, social

B. Other organizations receiving assistance in 1997

Twenty-four other humanitarian and medical and social assistance organizations preferred not to appear on this list. Their types of activity are medical, psychological and social assistance and the training of health-care professionals.

Annex II

STATEMENT MADE ON 27 MARCH 1997 BY MR. IVAN TOSEVSKI, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE, AT THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and other members of the Bureau, for giving me the opportunity to address the Commission on Human Rights on behalf of the Chairman and the four other members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for Victims of Torture, including myself. A detailed report by the Secretary-General to the last session of the General Assembly and updated information to the present session of the Commission on Human Rights on the status of the Fund, submitted in accordance with Commission resolution 1996/33 under agenda item 8 of the Commission, are available as documents A/51/465 and E/CN.4/1997/27 and Add.1.

In conformity with several United Nations, Council of Europe, Organization of American States, International Labour Organization and International Committee of the Red Cross conventions, the prohibition of torture is a right that must be protected under all circumstances, to which "no derogation" may be made, even in time of public emergency, internal or international disturbance or armed conflict. This was reaffirmed universally in 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, which emphasized that torture is one of the most atrocious violations against human dignity, the result of which destroys the dignity and impairs the capability of victims to continue their lives and their activities.

Recognizing the need to provide assistance to the victims of torture in a purely humanitarian spirit, the General Assembly, by its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture to receive contributions for distribution, through established channels of assistance, as medical, psychological, social, economic and legal aid to victims of torture.

A Board of Trustees was set up in accordance with the resolution of the General Assembly to advise the Secretary-General on the administration of the Fund. The report of the Secretary-General dated 9 October 1996 provides more information on the activities of the Board.

In the above-mentioned reports, the Secretary-General indicated that, in 1996, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights approved the Board's recommendations on grants to 96 projects submitted by 92 humanitarian organizations in 54 countries for a total amount of $2,435,500. However, the total number of requests for funding received by the secretariat of the Fund was more than $5 million in 1996. The Fund could therefore only finance 50 per cent of the requests.

In 1997, the secretariat of the Fund has received 117 project proposals, an increase of 22 per cent as compared with 1996. As a rule, considering the financial constraints of the Fund, a request cannot exceed a third of the total budget of a project. Whereas a total amount of $6.8 million is requested this

year - an increase of $1.8 million when compared with 1996 - the real needs of the projects submitted to the Fund are $25 million.

In its resolution 1996/33, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to appeal to all Member States to contribute to the Fund. The High Commissioner sent out a letter on 11 November 1996 asking for contributions to be made before the meeting of the Fund's Board of Trustees.

Since the publication of the addendum to the report of Secretary-General to the Commission (E/CN.4/1997/27/Add.1) the Governments of Algeria, Andorra, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Malta, Nepal, Norway, the Philippines and Switzerland have paid contributions. As at 27 March 1997, contributions paid to the Fund by 23 Governments and two individuals amount to $1,561,581.

Pledges have also been made, for a total amount of $1,825,400, by the Governments of Austria, Chile, Germany, the Holy See, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America. The latter would be the largest donor to the Fund in 1997, with $1.5 million. However, all these pledges and new contributions have to be paid before 20 May 1997, as the Board of Trustees at its next session, from 20 to 30 May 1997, will only be authorized to consider contributions paid, but not pledges made. Any contribution paid after that date could only be considered for 1998.

Therefore, the situation of the Fund could have improved during the current year with $3,540,815 instead of $2,435,500 in 1996, provided that all pledges are paid before 20 May and taking into consideration the 22 per cent increase in applications for grants in 1997.

An information meeting with interested donors and the Board of Trustees will be organized on 30 May, the last day of the Board's session. The secretariat of the Fund has also organized, on 18 March, an information meeting for interested non-governmental organizations attending the present session of the Commission.

Annex III

HOW TO MAKE OR PLEDGE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND

A. How to make a contribution to the Fund

1. To contribute to the Fund by bank transfer, pay to: "United Nations Geneva General Fund", c/o Société de Banque Suisse (SBS), B.P. 2770, CH-1211 Genève 2, Suisse; account No. CO-590-160.1 in United States dollars, or account No. CO-590-160.0 in Swiss francs

2. Payment may also be made by cheque, payable to "the United Nations", addressed to:

Trésorerie, ONU, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 10

or to:

Treasury, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA

3. In all cases, please specify the following:

"payee: United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, account CH"

B. How to make a pledge

4. States may announce their pledges at the one-day United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, held yearly in New York in November.